



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Dick Brown
502-564-5525**

Commonwealth Cleanup Week March 17-24 ***State gets 'spring cleaning' before travel season***

Frankfort, Ky. (March 12, 2012) – Volunteers from across Kentucky are set to fill trash bags and pick up old tires March 17-24 during the 14th Commonwealth Cleanup Week.

The annual weeklong event is implemented by the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) and kicks off the Great American Cleanup, spanning from March through May. Its purpose is to provide Kentucky communities with an opportunity to “spring clean,” recycle and promote personal responsibility across the Commonwealth.

EEC Secretary Len Peters said Commonwealth Cleanup Week establishes civic pride and allows citizens to take ownership of their communities' environment. “I am impressed each year with the number of Kentuckians who participate in this annual event. Thousands give their time to numerous cleanup projects, picking up litter and trash from our roadways, valley and streams, and recycling where possible.

“I know that we've accomplished a great deal in the past 14 years, but we can work to make this year's cleanup better than the last and to keep up the momentum throughout the year.”

During the 2011 cleanup week, more than 34,000 Kentuckians picked up 36,774 bags of trash and 2,481 tires along 4,212 miles of roadway. In addition, these same volunteers cleaned nine illegal dumps.

The timing of this initiative also helps prepare our state for visitors and tourists who make Kentucky their travel destination during the spring and summer months.

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) will promote this year's event, and Kentucky Life host Dave Shuffett will be taping a special “Dave Does It” segment during Commonwealth Cleanup Week.

Nonprofit groups that register with their county solid waste coordinator and complete a Commonwealth Cleanup Week cleanup are eligible to win one of six \$100 cash prizes in a random drawing.

Visit the DWM's website at <http://waste.ky.gov/RLA/Pages/CCW.aspx> -for scheduled events and a listing of county solid waste coordinators in Kentucky.

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